Docket No. AUS920000868US1

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

5   **APPARATUS, METHOD AND COMPUTER PROGRAM PRODUCT FOR
       CONVERTING SIMPLE LOCKS IN A MULTIPROCESSOR SYSTEM**

An apparatus, method and computer program product for minimizing the negative effects that occur when simple locks are highly contended among processors which may or may not

10 have identical latencies to the memory that represents a given lock, are provided. The apparatus, method and computer program product minimize these effects by converting simple locks such that they act as standard simple locks when there is no contention and act as krlocks

15 when there is contention for a lock. In this way, the number of processors spinning on a lock is limited to a single processor, thereby reducing the number of processors that are in a wait state and not performing any useful work.